commercial banks regarding lending to the priority sector which include 'Professionals and Self-employed persons' stipulate norms regarding margin, security, interest rates and the types of borrowers covered under category of priority sectors.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the professionals and self-employed persons identified by the nationalised banks for advancing loans include Medical Practitioners, Dentists, Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, Lawyers, or Solicitors, Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, Construction Contractors or Management Consultants or a person trained in any other art or craft who holds either a degree or diploma from any institution established, aided or recognised by the Government or a person who is considered by the bank as technically qualified or skilled in the field in which he is employed.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that all loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000 are to be disposed of within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000 within 8 to 9 weeks.

(d) Banks are required to satisfy themselves about the proposals before financing these professionals in regard to their requirements. They are also required to monitor and follow up the recovery of dues.

Deficit between Revenue Receipts and Revenue Expenditure

859. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gaps between receipts and expenditure has been increasing at much greater rate than estimamted, during the last three years;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to materialise its assurances about bringing down expenditure;

(c) whether any monitoring of expenditure is being done; and

(d) what quantum of reduction in non-Plan expenditure is contemplated to be achieved during 1988-89 and 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (d) Revenue deficits have been higher than estimates of deficit in the last three years. Government is however, keen to contain the deficit at a reasonable level and is taking all possible measures. These include, priortisation of programmes and activities of the Ministries/Departments by adopting Zero Base Budget approach and observance of economy in expenditure. Suitable instructions for containing expenditure to budgeted levels have also been issued and a close watch is being kept on various trends of expenditure with a view to taking corrective action. These intructions apply in particular to non-plan/non-developmental expenditure and their impact will be reflected over a period of years.

Price Rise

860. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that during the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan, Price rise have been unprecedented despite the promise of achieving zero rate of inflation during the Seventh Plan Period;

(b) whether Government have identified the reasons attributable to such spiralling inflation, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Seventh Five Year Plan did not make any promise for achieving zero rate of inflation. However, the price rise during the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan is much less than the rise during the three year periods of 1979—82 or 1972—75 as may be seen from the following table:—

Year	WPI (1970-71=100) (Percentage change)	CPI (1960=100) (Percentage change)
1972-73	12.3	11.3
1973-74	30.0	27.3
1974-75	10.1	16.7
1979-80	21.4	12.3
1980-81	16.7	12.6
1981-82	2.4	8.8
1985-86	3.8	8.9
1986-87	5.3	7.5
1987-88	10.6	9.8

(b) The main reason for the notable increase in prices during the period was the severe drought of 1987-88 resulting in short-fall in production of agricultural and agro based commodities.

(c) The specific measures taken by the Government to keep the price rise under check include enhanced distribution of foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS), strengthening of the PDS with the opening of additional outlets; import of essential commodities like pulses, edible oils and sugar; strict economy in Government expenditure; mopping up of excess liquidity in the economy and intensive action against hoarders and profiteers.

Identity Cards Issued in Border Districts of Western India along Indo-Pak Border

861. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many border districts of Western India bordering Pakistan, identity cards have been issued to the inhabitants and how many Tehsils have been covered so far; and

(b) how many Tehsils remain to be covered and by when this work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Government have approved the Pilot Scheme for issue of Identity Cards in Poogal, Nachna, Karanpur and Chauhatan Tehsils of Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Ganganagar and Barmer districts respectively in Rajasthan and Bhuj Taluka in Gujarat. The Government of Punjab are also working out schemes for issue of Identity Cards in border areas. Based on the results of this pilot scheme, the scheme for issue of Identity Cards may be extended to other border districts along the Western border.

Decline in Export of Tea to London

862. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traditional market for Indian tea in London is slowly slipping out of India's hands with Kenya and Sri Lanka emerging as two strong competitors and what are the sale figures during each of the last three years and so for during the current year of tea of the three countries in the London market;

(b) the quality, price and packing charges of Indian tea as compared with the above two countries in the London tea market; and